

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 13 of page 8 as follows:

Figure 5, which is a partially sectioned view taken along line 5-5 of Figure 4, illustrates an example embodiment of a guidewire port 44 [[46]] that can have a rectangular configuration. The guidewire port 44 [[46]] has sides 48 that can taper inward toward the center of the guidewire port 44 [[46]] in order to facilitate guidewire entry. The sides 48 can be angled at any useful angle. In some embodiments, the sides 48 can be angled at an angle of about 45 degrees with respect to a long axis of the elongate shaft 42. In some embodiments, the sides 48 can be substantially perpendicular to the long axis.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 10 of page 10 as follows:

As illustrated in Figure 7, the slit 58 preferably extends from an outer surface 60 of the polymer sheath 50 to an inner surface 62 of the polymer sheath 50. In some embodiments, the slit 58 can extend through the polymer sheath 50 at an angle that is substantially perpendicular to the outer surface 60 of the polymer sheath ~~or parallel to a radial line through the center of the lumen~~. This is especially useful when placing embolic coils or stents. In particular embodiments, as illustrated, the slit 58 can extend through the polymer sheath 50 at an angle that is significantly less than about 90 degrees to the outer surface ~~or substantially angled relative to a radial line through the lumen wall~~. In some embodiments, the slit 58 can extend through the polymer sheath 50 at an angle that is about 45 degrees from perpendicular.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 12 as follows:

Use of the microcatheter 10 described herein can be explained with reference to Figures 8 and 9. A microcatheter 75 has a distal end 64. As illustrated, the microcatheter 75 is formed with the polymer layer 28 defining the lumen 30 extending therethrough. A control valve including a polymer sheath 50 can be

positioned over the microcatheter 75 such that the slit 58 is proximate to and overlying the guidewire port 44 [[46]].

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 14 of page 12 as follows:

The distal end 68 of the guidewire sheath 66 can be advanced through the slit 58, through the guidewire port 44 [[46]], and into the lumen 30. The guidewire sheath 66 can be advanced sufficiently far into the lumen 30 to guide the guidewire 72. Once the guidewire sheath 66 has been positioned, the guidewire 72 having a distal end 74 and a proximal portion 76 can be loaded by advancing the distal end 74 through the guidewire sheath 66 and into the lumen 30. The guidewire 72 can be advanced until the distal end 74 of the guidewire 72 extends through the distal end 64 of the microcatheter 75. The distal end 64 of the microcatheter 75 can include a distal guidewire port 78.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 of page 12 as follows:

Once the guidewire 72 is thus loaded into the guidewire port 44 [[46]] and out the distal guidewire port 78, the guidewire sheath 66 can, if desired, be removed. The guidewire 72 can be advanced into and through a patient's vasculature 80 (Figure 9) until the distal end 74 of the guidewire 72 has reached and passed a treatment site of interest 82. After positioning the guidewire 72, which can include the use of radiopaque materials either within or on the distal end 74 of the guidewire 72, the microcatheter 75 can be advanced over the guidewire 72 to reach the treatment site 82. The guidewire 72 can then be withdrawn proximally until the guidewire 72 has been completely withdrawn from the microcatheter 76 and, if desired, from the body.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 8 of page 13 as follows:

Once the guidewire 72 has been withdrawn, the control valve 56 can close, thereby rendering the microcatheter 75 at least substantially fluid tight. It is also

recognized that the present catheter can be utilized in certain applications without the guidewire sheath. In [[the]] these applications, the guidewire alone passes through the slit of the control valve. As a result, treatment elements such as embolic fluid or other treatment fluids can be passed through the microcatheter 75 to the treatment site 82. Suitable treatment elements also include, but are not limited to, stents, coils, embolic material and glue.